

Massachusetts All-Payer Claims Database
Release 1.0
Release Notes – July 9, 2013

The release includes medical, pharmacy and dental claims with dates of service between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2011¹ and information for the same period about member eligibility, providers and benefit plan design. This release includes data from Medicaid (MassHealth) and Medicare in addition to data from private payers.²

The Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) has implemented several changes to the APCD which will make Release 1.0 easier to use than the Preliminary Release:

- The claims files (Medical, Pharmacy, and Dental) are organized and released based on Date of Service. Previously claims files were organized based on Date of Submission to CHIA.
- The Provider File (PV) and Product File (PR) have been aggregated across all three years of service. Previously, there were files for each year.
- Some data elements that were previously identified as “No Release” are now considered Level 2 data elements, meaning that they are available, subject to the rules in CHIA’s data release regulations.
- Several data fields that had been “masked” are now “unmasked” as CHIA’s Quality Assurance team has been able to screen and remove direct patient identifiers that may have been in these text fields.
- Address and demographic data have been standardized across the files.
- More advanced cleaning logic was applied to more data elements.

CHIA will release de-identified extracts of the APCD Medical and Pharmacy Claims files later in 2013.

APCD Release 1.0 is accompanied by new data release regulations, new application forms and data use agreements that were prepared pursuant to Chapter 224, the Massachusetts health care reform bill that was passed in 2012. A revised fee schedule also becomes effective with the availability of APCD Release 1.0. All of these materials are also available at the [APCD website](#).

Questions concerning APCD Release 1.0 may be directed to apcd.data@state.ma.us.

¹ Paid through February 28, 2013.

² There are restrictions on release of Medicaid and Medicare data. See CHIA website for details.